

Members

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Sen. Rose Ann Antich-Carr
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Ann Stefaniak
Tonette Murff
Bonnie Miller
Susan Tucker
Mara Snyder
Ronald Stiver
Melanie Brizzi



COMMITTEE ON CHILD CARE

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Authority: P.L. 107-2005

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 28, 2005
Meeting Time: 10:30 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 431
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Rep. William Crawford; Mary Jane Scamahorn; Kimberly Armstrong; Mark Young; Becky Dennis; Sharon Molargik; Ann Stefaniak; Tonette Murff; Bonnie Miller; Susan Tucker; Melanie Brizzi.

Members Absent: Rep. Mary Kay Budak, Chairperson; Sen. Connie Lawson; Sen. Rose Ann Antich-Carr; Pam Leffers; Mara Snyder; Ronald Stiver.

Rep. Crawford called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m., explaining that he would convene the meeting for purposes of taking testimony on the agenda items and that any other business of the committee would be conducted at subsequent meetings.

Child Care Home Administrative Rules Update

Melanie Brizzi, Consultant, Division of Family Resources (DFR), Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), described the process currently underway for revision and

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

adoption of the rules. Ms. Brizzi explained that negotiations for a contract between FSSA and the National Association of Regulatory Administrators (NARA), which assists states in writing regulations, are nearly complete. She stated that during October through December of 2005, issues related to the child care home rules will be researched, and during January through March of 2006, a facilitator from NARA will assist in discussions between DFR and interested parties concerning the rules. She predicted that a rough draft of the rules will be completed in April, 2006, and, in response to a question from Rep. Crawford, stated that she expects the formal rulemaking process to begin in May, 2006, with adoption of final rules by the end of summer, 2006.

Rep. Crawford expressed his appreciation for the timely information concerning the child care home rules.

Indiana Child Care Fund

Carol Culbertson, Member, Board of Directors, Indiana Child Care Fund (ICCF), explained that ICCF is the result of a public/private partnership to address quality child care. She stated that ICCF receives public and private funding, noting that ICCF receives funding from corporations and, until recently, received grants from FSSA.

In response to a question from Ms. Molargik, Ms. Culbertson noted one special project of ICCF, Project Braintree. She explained that through the project, science and math kits for preschool children in child care are available in each county through Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral (IACCRR) distribution centers.

In response to a comment from Ms. Miller, Marsha Thompson, Executive Director of IACCRR, acknowledged that some distribution centers are far from providers in some counties, but stated that Project Braintree has generally been very successful. Ms. Thompson noted that the project continues through ICCF, though the previously available Child Care and Development Fund funding is no longer received for the project.

Ellen Clippinger, Chief Executive Officer, AYS, Inc., noted that a school aged youth credential was funded by the ICCF

In response to a question from Ms. Dennis, Ms. Culbertson briefly described the registered child care ministry located in Indianapolis for which she serves as the director.

August, 2004, Stein Group Report to the Governor

Carole Stein, Chief Executive Officer, The Stein Group, provided two handouts concerning the report to the Governor, updated in 2004 and 2005², and a document discussing investment in pre-kindergarten programs³. Ms. Stein discussed issues of accountability, prevention, pre-kindergarten for at risk populations, quality of and access to child care, and partnerships for child care. She noted that since 2003 state government has not monitored these issues in a focused manner. Ms. Stein then presented the report, noting several issues related to topics covered in the report, including the following: (a) The number of licensed child care slots in Indiana has decreased significantly during the past

²Attachment A.

³Attachment B.

two years. (b) She has unsuccessfully requested information from: (1) ICCF concerning funding and programs; and (2) FSSA concerning Indiana Development Finance Authority loans for child care providers. (In response to a suggestion from Rep. Crawford, Ms. Stein stated that she would seek the information directly from the IDFA.) (c) The importance of provider knowledge of child care business practices. (d) The question of whether tiered reimbursement has impacted child care provider licensure. (e) A program for providers to receive child care credentials on line has been successful. (f) The success of Project Braintree. (g) The need to be creative and make fundraising in the area of child care a priority. (h) The need to pursue public/private partnerships related to child care.

Rep. Crawford noted that work concerning public/private partnerships was done by the Board for the Coordination of Child Care Regulation in 2003. Ms. Stein responded that the planned regional roundtable discussions concerning child care public/private partnerships did not occur.

Ms. Stein recommended the issues that she raised to the Committee as part of the Committee's program of study, particularly the possibility for an agency of state government to provide dedicated resources to address quality and access in child care.

Monica Boyer, President, Indiana Child Care Association, expressed her concern about decreasing numbers of licensed child care providers. She stated that there are currently 2890 licensed providers in Indiana, decreased from more than 4000 in October, 2004. Ms. Boyer expressed her opinion that overregulation was a large part of the decision of many child care providers not to renew their licenses.

Ms. Stefaniak stated that she has attempted to obtain information from FSSA and others related to her Class II child care home. She mentioned various items contained in Ms. Stein's report about which she was unaware until recently.

Committee discussion and recommendations for program of study

Rep. Crawford noted the dedication of Rep. Budak and Sen. Lawson to the child care area and recommended that the members and others provide recommendations for the Committee's program of study in writing to Ms. Naughton for distribution to the members and discussion at a future meeting. He emphasized the need for the Committee's future recommendations to be disseminated in every legislative district to increase the likelihood of passage of any recommended legislation. He also noted that holes in the safety net for the poor have been revealed by the recent hurricanes, and that the best way to assist people is to provide them with an opportunity to work and earn their own resources to care for their families, for which access to quality child care is necessary.

With no further business to discuss, Rep. Crawford adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.